

CLAIMS:

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1. A method of automatically finding and organizing items similar to example items, comprising:

providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for one organization instance, each of these areas to contain items;

receiving at least one example item for said one organization instance provided by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group area;

searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing said located at least one item in said suggestions group area;

modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of said group areas to another of said group areas; and

continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in said suggestions group area which are related to said at least one item in said related group area based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said predetermined criterion comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to said at least one item in said related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in said suggestions group area.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a user interface including
2 visual representations of said related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual
3 representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by moving a visual representation of
3 the item from a visual representation of said one group area to a visual representation of said
4 another group area.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said user interface comprises a graphical user
2 interface and said visual representations of said group areas each comprises a pane on a
3 display.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by dragging a visual representation of
3 the item from a pane of said one group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein each of said items comprises a document.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing related, not related, and
2 suggestions group areas for at least one other organization instance and further comprising
3 modifying said predetermined criterion based on the user moving an item from said related
4 group area of said at least one other organization instance to said not related group area of said

5 one organization instance or from said not related group area of said at least one other
6 organization instance to said related group area of said one organization instance or from said
7 suggestions group area of said at least one other organization instance to said related or not
8 related group areas of said one organization instance.

1 **9.** A tangible medium embodying a computer program, the program automatically
2 finding and organizing items similar to example items and comprising:

3 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for one organization
4 instance, each of these areas to contain items;

5 receiving at least one example item for said one organization instance provided
6 by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group area;

7 searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one
8 item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing said located at
9 least one item in said suggestions group area;

10 modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user
11 providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of said
12 group areas to another of said group areas; and

13 continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in said
14 suggestions group area which are related to said at least one item in said related group area
15 based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

1 **10.** The medium of claim 9, wherein said predetermined criterion comprises
2 assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to said

3 at least one item in said related group area and wherein located items having a relevance score
4 greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in said suggestions group area.

1 11. The medium of claim 9, further comprising providing a user interface including
2 visual representations of said related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual
3 representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein.

1 12. The medium of claim 11, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by moving a visual representation of
3 the item from a visual representation of said one group area to a visual representation of said
4 another group area.

1 13. The medium of claim 12, wherein said user interface comprises a graphical user
2 interface and said visual representations of said group areas each comprises a pane on a
3 display.

1 14. The medium of claim 13, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by dragging a visual representation of
3 the item from a pane of said one group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 15. The medium of claim 9, wherein each of said items comprises a document.

1 16. The medium of claim 9, further comprising providing related, not related, and
2 suggestions group areas for at least one other organization instance and further comprising
3 modifying said predetermined criterion based on the user moving an item from said related
4 group area of said at least one other organization instance to said not related group area of said
5 one organization instance or from said not related group area of said at least one other
6 organization instance to said related group area of said one organization instance or from said
7 suggestions group area of said at least one other organization instance to said related or not
8 related group areas of said one organization instance.

1 17. A method of automatically finding and organizing items similar to example
2 items, comprising:

3 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for one organization
4 instance, each of these areas to contain items;

5 receiving at least one example item for said one organization instance provided
6 by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group area of said one
7 organization instance;

8 searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one
9 item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing said located at
10 least one item in said suggestions group area of said one organization instance, wherein said
11 predetermined criterion comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each item based
12 on each item's relevance to said at least one item said related group area and wherein located
13 items having a relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in said
14 suggestions group area;

15 modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user
16 providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of said
17 group areas to another of said group areas and the user moving an item from a related, not
18 related or suggestions group area of another organization instance to one group area of said one
19 organization instance; and

20 continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in said
21 suggestions group area of said one organization instance which are related to said at least one
22 item in said related group area based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

1 **18.** The method of claim 17, further comprising providing a user interface including
2 visual representations of said related, not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual
3 representation of an area including a visual representation of items contained therein.

1 **19.** The method of claim 18, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by moving a visual representation of
3 the item from a visual representation of said one group area to a visual representation of said
4 another group area.

1 **20.** The method of claim 19, wherein said user interface comprises a graphical user
2 interface and said visual representations of said group areas each comprises a pane on a
3 display.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said user selectively moves an item from one
2 group area to another group area via said user interface by dragging a visual representation of
3 the item from a pane of said one group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein each of said items comprises a document.

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